



PRESS RELEASE

Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between Bangladesh and India

The Arbitral Tribunal Concludes Hearing on the Merits

THE HAGUE, 18 December 2013

The Arbitral Tribunal constituted in the matter of the *Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration* between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India has just concluded its hearing on the merits. The hearing was held from 9 December to 18 December 2013 at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

On 9 December 2013, His Excellency Mr. A.H. Mahmood Ali, MP, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, and The Honorable Goolam E Vahanvati, Attorney General of India, made opening statements on behalf of the Parties.

Following the opening statements, the Agent of Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, MP (Former Foreign Minister), made introductory remarks. Mr. Lawrence Martin, Professor Philippe Sands QC, Professor Payam Akhavan, Mr. Paul Reichler, Professor Alan Boyle, and Professor James Crawford SC argued on behalf of Bangladesh. Bangladesh's first round of oral arguments was concluded on 10 December 2013.

On 12 December 2013, the Agent of India, Dr. Neeru Chadha (Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs), gave a general presentation of the case. Mr. R.K.P. Shankardass, Professor Alain Pellet, Professor Michael Reisman, and Sir Michael Wood KCMG argued on behalf of India. India's first round of oral arguments was concluded on 13 December 2013.

On 16 December 2013, the Deputy Agent of Bangladesh, Rear Admiral (Retd) Mohammad Khurshed Alam (Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and counsel concluded Bangladesh's second round of oral arguments. On 18 December 2013, the Agent and counsel for India concluded its second round of oral arguments. The Parties also answered questions from the Tribunal.

Over the course of the hearing, the Parties have presented their positions on certain key issues relating to the maritime boundary between the two States, including the location of the land boundary terminus between them, the delimitation of the Territorial Sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone, and the Continental Shelf within and beyond 200 nm.

Following the hearing, the Tribunal will commence its deliberations. Under Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure governing this case, "[t]he Arbitral Tribunal shall endeavour to render its Award within six months of the close of the proceedings."

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The President of the Arbitral Tribunal is Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany). The other members of the Tribunal are Judge Jean-Pierre Cot (France), Judge Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana), Dr. Pemmaraju Sreenivasa

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Rao (India), and Professor Ivan Shearer (Australia). The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague acts as Registry in the arbitration.

On 8 October 2009, Bangladesh instituted arbitral proceedings concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and India pursuant to Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Parties have subsequently exchanged written pleadings.

In October 2013, the Arbitral Tribunal also conducted a site visit to relevant areas of the Bay of Bengal.

Other press release and information relating to this arbitration are available on the website of the PCA at http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1376.